

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 and 24-32 are currently pending in this Application of which claims 1 and 12 are independent. Claims 23 and 33 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and without conceding the correctness of the rejections. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the non-elected claim 33 in a divisional application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the following discussion.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has objected to claim 23 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended to include the limitations of claim 23. Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 12 (and all claims dependent thereon) are therefore in allowable form.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Russian patent 416,401. Claims 1 and 4-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 4,908,060 (*Dunkleman*). Claims 1, 2 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 3,459,133 (*Scheffler*). Claims 1-4, 7, 12-14, 16-18, 22, 24, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 3,477,383 (*Rawson et al.*). Claims 15, 19-21 and 27-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 3,477,383 (*Rawson et al*) in view of U.S. patent 4,908,060 (*Dunkelmann*).

Independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended to include the limitations of claim 23, (which was indicated to be allowable if placed in independent form). It is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 12, and all claims dependent thereon (2-11, 13-22, and 24-32) are therefore patentable over the art. These amendments are made for the sole purpose of advancing the prosecution of this application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter in any cancelled claim in a continuing application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and arguments herein, this Application is believed to be in condition for allowance and favorable action is requested. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute additional claims, including claims of broader scope, in any related application.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the issue fee, for such extension is to be charged to **Deposit Account No. 19-3878**.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if it would in any way advance prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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